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R4D11

NPIC/D-195/70

24 JUN 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Stereo Scanning Utility Study

REFERENCE : NPIC/D-116/70, dated 7 April 1970, Subject: []
Contract - Automated Stereo Scanner (attached)

1. I earlier indicated a program of action in regard to the Automated Stereo Scanner that included a project to determine, through research tests, the value of scanning in stereo. The [] has proposed a 19 month, three phase effort, at [] to accomplish this task. I earlier had estimated that the project would cost about []

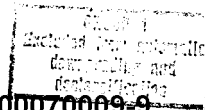
a. Phase I (7 months at [] consists of coordination and planning, contractor training on the High Precision Stereo Comparator, relating hardware functions to human visual and film imagery characteristics, and preparing the Order of Battle and Special Target Search test packages.

b. Phase II (8 months at [] constitutes the main program effort and utilizes 30 PI's and other personnel to (1) obtain target readout performance measures both with and without stereo scanning against two different kinds of PI requirements - Order of Battle targets and Special Target Searches, and (2) predict related costs and benefits of stereo scanning by estimating equipment required, personnel needs, and throughput time during operational use.

c. Phase III (4 months at [] includes test package preparation, training and testing a new group of 30 PI's, and analyzing the costs and benefits of stereo scanning when applied against a General Area Search PI problem.

2. The results of Phases I and II may be sufficiently positive in terms of their findings on the value of stereo scanning to recommend continuation of the development of the prototype Automated Stereo Scanner. In that case, Phase III could be postponed until the prototype is completed. At that time Phase III could become part of a total system evaluation of the Automated Stereo Scanner.

DECLASS REVIEW by NGA/DOD

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SUBJECT: Stereo Scanning Utility Study

3. I have decided that we should proceed with the proposed [] study, though I intend to review that decision at the end of each phase of the contract.

25X1 4. Since this study is essentially a redirection of the effort
25X1 previously contracted to [] to test and evaluate the Automated Stereo Scanner, I intend to apply approximately [] remaining in that [] against our funding requirement. The additional [] can be obtained from the Center's FY '71 R&D budget or from Agency prior year funds (FY '68). I propose that the decision as to which source to tap be withheld until Phase I has been completed and we can confirm a need to proceed to Phase II.

[]
Executive Director
National Photographic Interpretation Center

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25X1 NPIC/PPBS: []

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NPIC/D-116/70

7 APR 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : The [] -- Automated Stereo Scanner

1. I have reviewed the status of the Automated Stereo Scanner project -- [] with []. That contract has cost us [] so far. [] tells us that it will cost us another [] before we could expect to have a prototype for test and evaluation purposes.

2. I am not satisfied that [] can or will produce a workable prototype -- or that [] will do so for the additional []. From what [] recently has told us about present and prospective trouble spots in the prototype equipment, I judge that the additional cost would be more on the order of [].

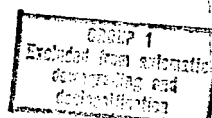
3. In short, if we at this point told [] to complete the project, we would end up with a prototype of questionable quality costing us a total of []. I cannot justify such a course to you or to myself.

4. I am, however, satisfied in my own mind that the objective of providing the photo interpreters with a stereo scanning capability has merit. You may well ask, 'how much merit?' I have asked that question and am not satisfied that I have the kinds of answers which we need to determine if the merit will be worth the cost.

5. I have decided that the following is our best course of action:

- a. Stop work at []
- b. Contract with the [] to conduct stereo scanning research tests which will assist us in determining the incremental values which could be obtained using stereo scanning against various kinds of photo interpretation problems.

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NPIC/D-116/70

SUBJECT: [] -- Automated Stereo Scanner

c. Contract with the []
[] to conduct an engineering audit of
the [] project, to assist us in determining the strengths
and weaknesses of [] design and choice of present and
prospective equipment components and their correlation.

6. The study by [] would cost about [] and would be paid for
out of funds already allocated or planned for in the human factors research
work being done for NPIC at []

7. The engineering audit would cost about [] of NPIC's FY-70 R&D
funds.

8. Would the cost of these two investigations mean adding another
[] to the ultimate cost of a prototype? Perhaps, but the quality and
relevance of the resulting equipment would be assured and the total
expenditures would be stretched out over two-plus years.

9. By choosing this course we also would gain an ace-in-the-hole.
Depending on the results of the engineering audit, we would have developed
an alternate contractor source -- [] -- who
could complete the prototype, who has done similar jobs for us, and in
whose efficiency and effectiveness we have confidence.

10. I propose that we proceed on the course I have described. We are
preparing specific contract proposals for the two investigating projects,
and we stand ready to brief you as you require.

[]
Executive Director
National Photographic Interpretation Center

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NPIC/ODIR: []

ENDORSEMENT: I concur in the course of action you propose in para. 5 above.

16 April 1970

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Deputy Director for Intelligence

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R & D: 1

NPIC/TSSG/RED/SRB-043-70
23 June 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Redirection of Effort on [] for
a "Stereo Scanning Utility Study," []

1. On 19 June 1970 [] and the undersigned met with [] to obtain approval for the subject redirection and guidance as to documentation required. Our plan is to substitute the proposed Utility Study for the remaining, unfinished work as originally defined under [] which was for a System Evaluation of the Automated Stereo Scanner (when completed).

2. The proposed study will yield value measures as to the application and benefits of Stereo Scanning at NPIC and will consist of three phases: (I) Analysis & Preparation, (II) O/B and Special Target Search Tests, (III) General Area Scan Tests. This new study, [] will be funded, at this time, by using the remaining [] Additional funds of [] needed to complete the Utility Study will not be requested at this time, but will be obtained either from FY-1968 or future year funds as we progress with Phase I. An alternative reduction in scope, eliminating the General Area Scan Tests, could reduce total costs by approximately []

3. [] agreed with RED's proposed approach and [] gave his approval. RED will provide Chief/SC&PS with required documentation to redirect the work effort on [] will prepare an info memo to [] signature.

[]
Project Monitor
NPIC/TSSG/RED/SRB

Distribution:

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